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APRIL/MAY 2011 - VOL. 11 ISSUE 4

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# Billy Monroe's SCREAMIN' INK

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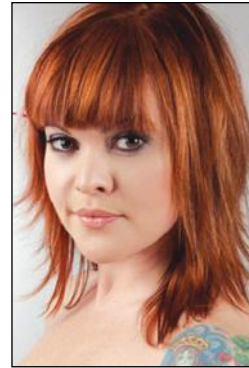


## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

**H**ello all my tattoo lifestylin' friends. We are proud to bring you yet another (in my opinion) stellar issue. Not only are we making this magazine happen we are also expanding our media offerings with our latest endeavor on [www.prickmag.net](http://www.prickmag.net) in the "Artist Portfolio" section. Artists can post their work and partner with us to take advantage of our massive fanbase and readership. The section is connected to our new website, [www.tattooartistportfolio.net](http://www.tattooartistportfolio.net), which we will soon spin off into a whole new magazine for maximum artist exposure! TAP will be a magazine solely created for the promotion of tattoo artists to the public who collect tattoos. I created PRICK for that very reason but now it gets confused as an "industry only" publication. Soon we will have both and there will be no confusion - Stay tuned! - Chuck B

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I have been privileged enough to talk with more PRICK readers than ever over the past two months, from industry and collecting public alike. I've also been privileged in that you've all had something to say! As PRICK prepares to launch our new TAP magazine and continue to expand as Chuck says, our "media offerings" with Garage 71 Radio, we continue to welcome your feedback as to what YOU want from your favorite tattoo fan-zine. Per reader response, we've streamlined our layout for easy reading and gone above and beyond to bring you the best tattoos and lifestyle content we can. Keep telling us what you want and we will do our best to deliver! - Jessica Hill



**ON THE COVER:**  
Amy DeLacroux  
by Greg Truelove



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### PRICK ADVERTISING & GENERAL INFO: (770) 723-9824

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CHECK OUT OUR AD RATES AND SPECS ONLINE AT: [www.prickmag.net](http://www.prickmag.net)

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: **PO BOX 381, TUCKER, GA 30085**

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

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# PRICKIN AROUND WORLD OF WHEELS

BY CHUCK B. PHOTOS BY ED SELBY

**I**ncredible hot rods, sexy pinups and great live music ... Need we say more? There were so many amazing cars on display we couldn't come close to showing them all. They even had the James Bond Lotus and the original Batmobile. Skip Boman was the winner of the Smoking Hot Pin-up contest and is to be featured in PRICK in a future issue. Even though I was a judge, no bias, crowd participation called it. A big thanks goes out to friends over at Garage 71 and World of Wheels promoters for making us part of this awesome car show. W.O.W. travels across the country displaying magnificent machines. Be sure and catch the show when it comes to your town. Go to [www.autorama.com](http://www.autorama.com) for future show dates. ★







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Tattoos by Ian Shafer

## SHOP FEATURE -

# Screamin' Ink and Burnin' Road

WORDS BY J.J. DIABLO

**W**hile I myself still feel quite young to the tattoo and Lowbrow art community, I feel a sense of pride getting to talk to long established and worthy names like Billy Monroe of Screamin' Ink. As Monroe has seen over a decade of progression in the industry, I asked him to share his opinion on its rapid growth over the years and on the new generation of artists today. "The changes in the industry have obviously been very dramatic in the past 10 years. The impact artistically and technically is so advanced. Just open any magazine and you'll see artists coming out of the woodwork doing amazing work. But for me personally it's lost a bit of its luster. When walking into a tattoo shop 20 years ago, I had the fear and respect for my artists, as opposed to the kids of today who are fearless in their approach. I don't believe for a second today's generation has any understanding of what artists went through years ago and the barriers they broke to get where they are today. Nor do I believe that they care."

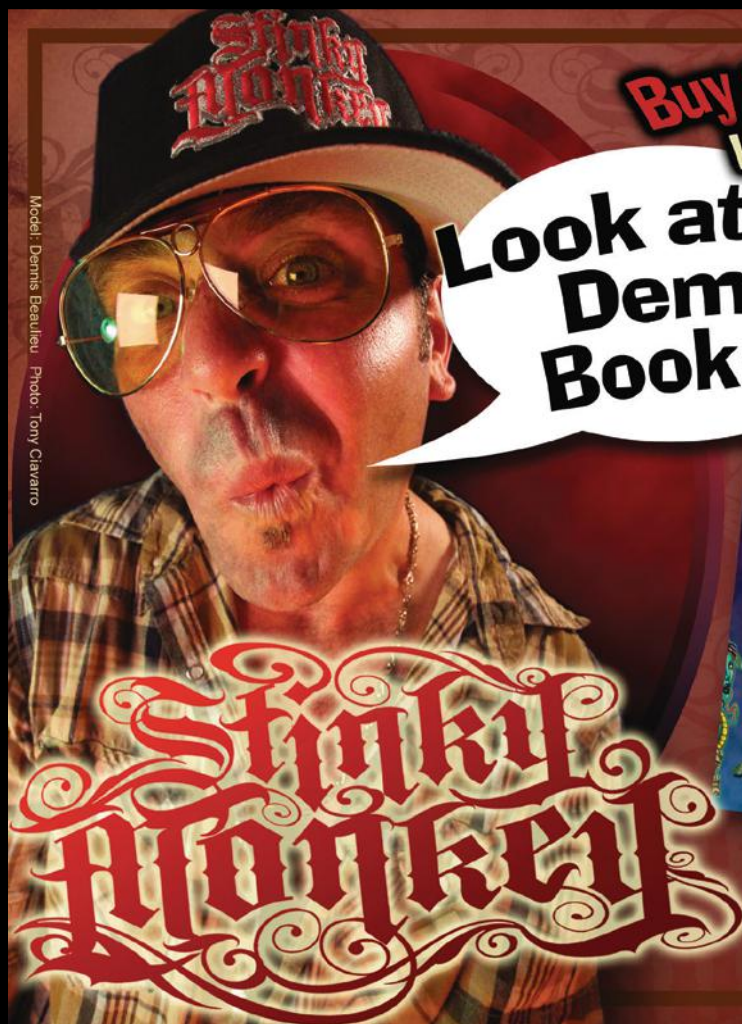
On the topic of conventions, Monroe also shared his thoughts on their progression across the country. He noted that while "tattoo conventions are always going to be vital to the industry" they are "no where near as exciting as they used to be. How can they be? There's one every weekend, in every city as opposed to the National Tattoo Association or Dwyer and Crowes Tattoo Tour. They were the best of the best of conventions where all the top artists and enthusiasts



Billy Monroe and his hot rods

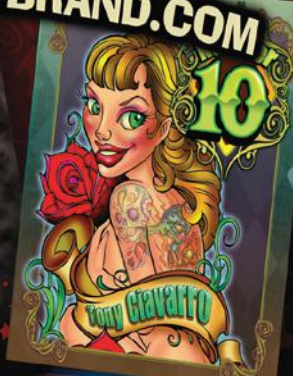






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## SCREAMIN' INK CONTINUES

Tattoos by Jeremy Miller

would participate a couple times a year. Now it's completely over saturated. Today, many conventions are being put on by people who have no connections to tattoos or the industry. They're just businessmen in suits. Artists claiming to have 'the biggest', 'the best' and 'the most booths' insult the real tattoo community; just self-indulgent narcissists. Working class tattoo artists don't give a fuck about that."

Monroe and Screamin' Ink wholeheartedly "support the NYC Tattoo Convention, a true international show in the heart of Times Square. We also look forward to tattooing at Ink-N-Iron in Long Beach, CA every year on the Queen Mary ship. We've also been invited to a couple big European conventions. Hopefully we'll soon attend."

Screamin' Ink and resident guest artist, Bugs, were featured on TLC's *Tattoo Wars*. In terms of the impact reality shows have had on tattooing, Monroe feels the effect is "both positive and negative. Reality TV is something my wife and I both enjoy. It's mindless entertainment at its best. *Tattoo Wars* was special for us. Bugs, whom we consider a resident guest artist and a close friend, approached me about filming the first episode of the show at our shop. I was proud of the outcome. Bugs represented himself like the true professional that he is and it was a great experience. I had already done filming and work with HBO's *The Sopranos* and was used to a film crew in my face seven days a week. TLC's *Tattoo Wars* was unfortunately short lived; not enough drama for reality TV. However great artists and great shops were involved." Billy says that "putting things into perspective, the downside of reality tattoo shows are that they give false hope to what it really takes to own or run a tattoo business or even get into the industry. You have kids walking into shops everyday thinking it's easy to get an apprenticeship because their friends or family say they can draw. There are kids running rampant with tattoo machines, tattooing out of their houses with self-inflated egos believing they are artists. Forget about the word tattooist, they need a smack in the mouth and trust me when they walk in my shop they get it. I went through almost two years of legal wrangling to open up at this location in 1998. I spent months fighting bureaucracy and dirty politicians to get where I am today. Forget about the thousands of dollars in legal fees. Fair Lawn, New Jersey tried to prohibit tattooing every step of the way. It



was a brutal battle that ultimately we won and set a precedent case in the state. It became a First Amendment case even the ACLU backed up, so understand my views as an owner/operator are very serious!"

A decade after Screamin' Ink opened its doors, Billy talks about the celebration of the shop's full roster and party plans to ring in its career benchmark. "I've been at this location for 13 years, and opened Screamin' Ink Tattoo in 2001. We have six full time tattoo artists. Award winning artists Ian Shafer and Jeremy Miller, and also Agent Smith, Darren Brown, Damon Sorrenti, Joe Madden and piercer Derek DeRosa. This year marks our 10 year anniversary. We plan on doing a great party this year and an after party at the world famous Bada Bing Club, or



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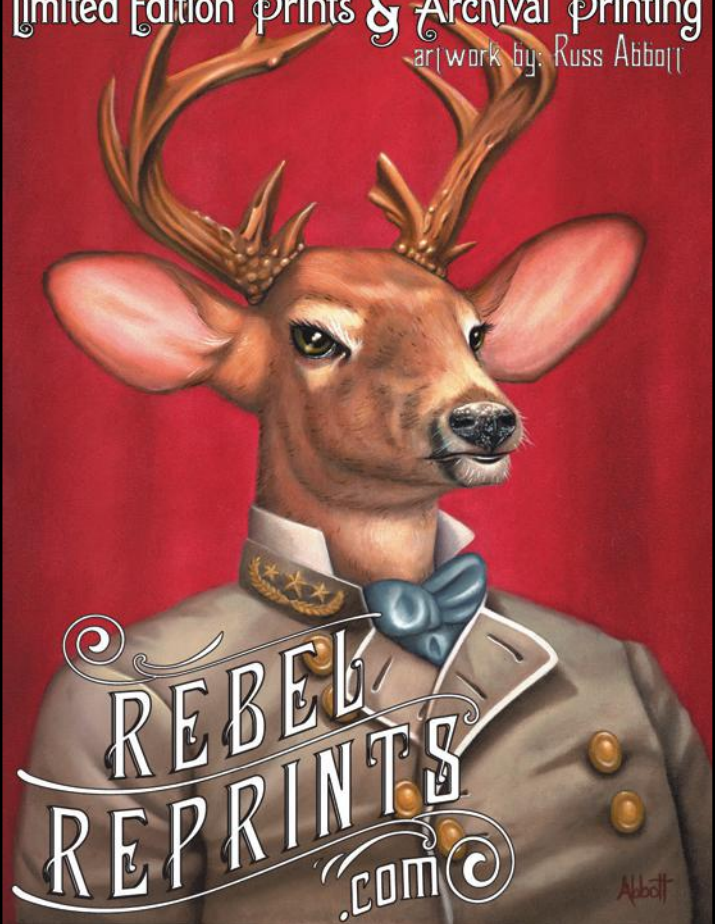
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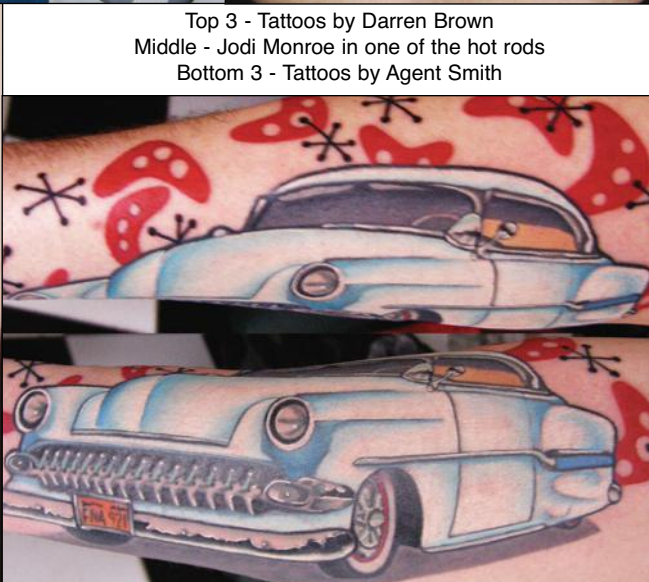
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Top 3 - Tattoos by Darren Brown  
Middle - Jodi Monroe in one of the hot rods  
Bottom 3 - Tattoos by Agent Smith

## SCREAMIN' INK CONT.

Harem night club, for great adult entertainment. We'll keep you posted on the details.

Billy Monroe is almost as passionate about work of art automobiles as he is about his shop. "I opened up Hot Rod Gallery five years ago as an extension of the shop. I've had some great shows and events at the gallery. We did one of the first East Coast shows featuring Bugs' art. Last year we had the Lord of Lowbrow himself, The Pizz, who did a book signing and art show. Even in the middle of a snowstorm we still had a great turnout." The Hot Rod Gallery has also been host to Jojo Ackerman of American Made Tattoo and this Summer, San Francisco's Dirty Donny and his new book, *Monster Revolt*, will be featured. "We bring a lot of West Coast Lowbrow artists to the gallery," says Monroe, "most of which are deep rooted into hot rods and customs."

When asked about his car club, Monroe's words begin to beam . . . "Ahh, the Beatniks: my life. Most everybody in the tattoo community knows of the Beatniks. We eat, sleep, and breathe hotrods and customs. I've been a member of the Beatniks Car Club for over eight years. It is a world renowned car club with well over 50 select members worldwide. We have a strong charter in Australia that's very active in the states. The Beatniks are like a lightning rod in the car club tattoo scene. Originally started almost 20 years ago by the one and only Jack Rudy, Brian Everett, Steve Bonge and Rick Dore, a difficult car club to get in, a more difficult car club to stay in. You must be sponsored and prospect for a minimum of two years. We've got to know your right for the club. We live this life of customs, hotrods, and tattoos." The Beatniks are also a veritable "who's who in the Lowbrow scene" including Von Franco, The Pizz and Dennis McPhail. Monroe adds they also include "world class car builders Rick Dore, Gary Chopit and Marcos Garcia." The club even boasts "the King of Metal, James Hetfield, of Metallica. Many members are well-known tattoo artists like Jack Rudy, Tony Edwards, Brian Everett, Shoe, Fip Buchanan, Shawn Warcot and Little Mick from Australia."

Billy Monroe is also proud to announce that "this year we're hosting our Second Annual Beatnik Blowout, in Ventura, Calif. Many East and West coast Beatniks will be in attendance 4th of July weekend. Beatniks are a lifestyle and something we hold close to our hearts and are proud of. FBBF". ★



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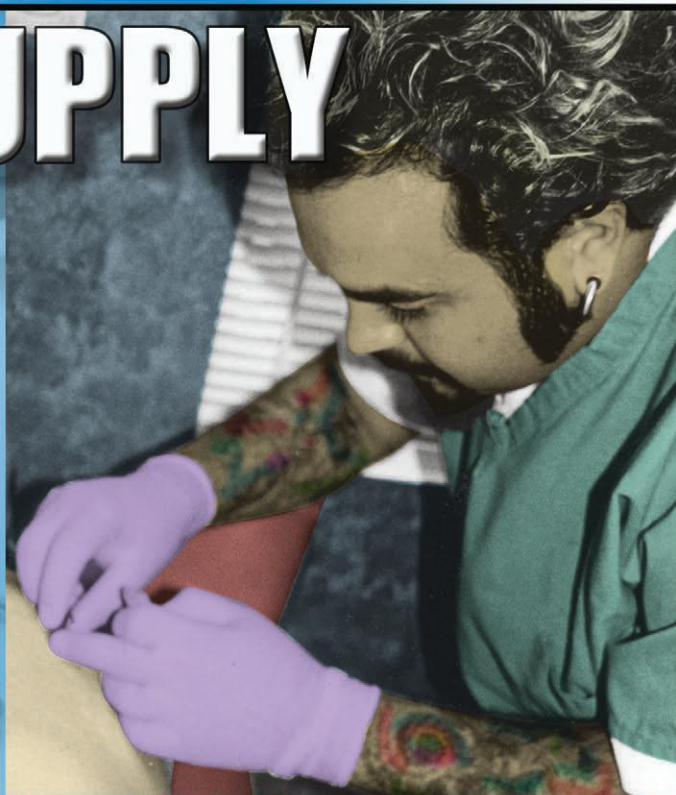


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## FEATURED ARTIST

# Jason Stephan

BY J.J. DIABLO

Tattoos are quite possibly one of the most personal pieces of art an individual can have. They express high and low points of life, loved ones gained and lost, homage to artists of multi-media, the list goes on. However due to such a personal nature, their appeal is just as subjective and varies from person to person. Because of these diverse opinions, we regularly receive feedback from readers confirming or even disputing merits of past featured artists and recommending their own favorite tattooers. Well we were listening. A few months back, we posted a request for artist recommendations on our social media. While we got feedback on many artists we've already featured or have featured since, one name came up repeatedly from loyal clientele: Jason Stephan.

Jason Stephan started tattooing professionally in 1997 in his hometown of Rockledge, Fla. "I spent my career moving back and forth between Florida and Virginia." After working with many great artists he officially made the move to Florida to open his own tattoo studio, Electric Eye Tattoo. He explained that "after some success and failure I



realized that balancing running my own tattoo studio and creating custom tattoos was just more than I wanted to handle. So, I decided to move to Richmond, Va. where I could concentrate solely on doing custom tattooing and learning new techniques to push myself to my full potential." Jason is now tattooing at Richmond's Ghostprint Gallery with two accomplished artists, Thea Duskin and Jesse Smith. Stephan says that "with all the inspiration around, combined with Richmond's wide array of other talented artists, I can't wait to see what's in my future."

Stephan became interested in tattooing when he was around eight years old. "I saw Ozzy Osbourne in some rock magazine. He had





## JASON STEPHAN CONTINUED

some cool tattoos on his chest and I thought, 'That's what I want to look like when I get older.' As far as doing tattoos, I always loved art, so once I started getting tattooed it just seemed natural that I'd want to become a tattoo artist."

He got his start young explaining he "was the person in my group of friends that could draw, and my buddies all started getting my artwork tattooed on them. The Tattoo Artists we were getting tattooed by at the time complimented my artwork and that's what gave me the confidence to pursue tattooing as a career." Stephan says he went around "begging and hanging out at shops for a couple years."

"I finally convinced an artist named Bobby D in Merritt Island, Fla. to apprentice me in 1995. I did a hardcore, old school apprenticeship for about a year and a half, and began tattooing professionally."

Stephan says his style of tattooing began "with some really weird drawings" and "doodles." He did mostly Flash for about eight years because "the guy who taught me how to tattoo said 'I think it's cool that you like to draw that stuff, but nobody wants that crap. They want horses and dolphins and palm trees.' So I concentrated on doing those things. I finally started having some faith in myself and started trying to draw everything instead of finding a picture someone else had drawn." After years of catering to clientele and drawing then redrawing work, "now I show them what I can do, and if it's not for them I try and recom-



mend someone who's more up their alley. I like doing stuff that some people would call cartoony or new school, but I like to think it's a little more than that. I just call it animated because it seems to me most like an animated movie; like a cartoon, just with more depth and texture."

Stephan credits his greatest artistic influences as "the graphic style of skateboard art and the fantasy style of heavy metal album covers . . . that's how I learned how to draw. As an adult, early new school tattoo artists caught my interest. That seemed to be kind of like what I was already drawing. They were just a lot better at it than me."

As far as tattoo artists, he mentions Jesse Smith and Guy Aitchison as his biggest motivators. "I never really tried to do the organic or bio-mechanical style stuff like Guy," he explains, "but the depth and texture he is able to create in a tattoo really caught my eye. I read his book, *Reinventing the Tattoo*, back in 2002, I think. It really changed the way I looked at doing a tattoo." "I met and worked with Jesse Smith briefly about 7 years ago. Neither one of us was doing anything all that special at the time. We became best of friends. Over the years he really began to step up his game as an artist. I felt like he brought something else to a style of tattooing that had been mostly just bright colors and bent angles. He was creating more of a world around the characters. I try to bring



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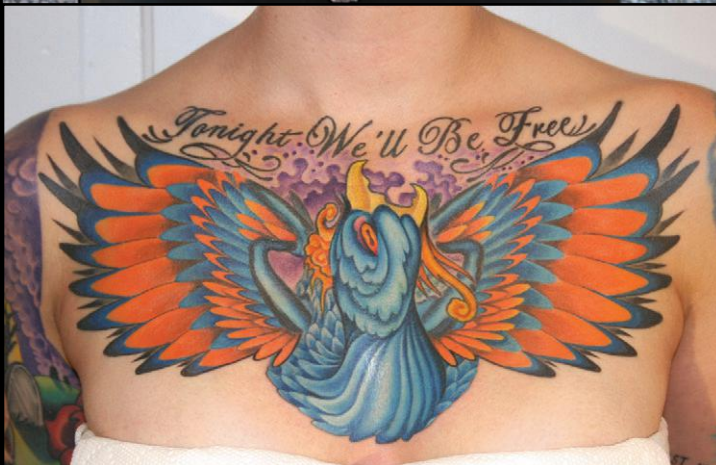
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## JASON STEPHAN CONTINUED

my characters and scenes to life. I ended up where I'm at by wanting to take the bold and goofy color characters I was drawing and put them in an environment that seemed believable. Sort of like a realistic landscape, just twisted."

Stephan also notes the huge impact his family has had in his life explaining "my wife and kids are probably the biggest inspiration and motivation for me in my life. They give me what I need to continue on every day and to try and always do better than the day before. I know this may not sound cool, but when your child looks in your eyes and you know everything you do is going to effect this little person's life, you will always strive to do the best you can. I've always wanted to impress the people I love with my art."

Jason Stephan's 2011 goals are to keep steadily building his clientele in the Richmond and surrounding area. He also mentions he

would "like to do some collaboration tattoos. I know I missed the boat. It seems like they were all the rage a couple years ago. Jesse and I are going to do a neck to knee back piece collaboration this year. I'm excited about that."

As far as traveling, Stephan is "only set to do three shows so far this year: Hampton, Va. and Cincinnati, Oh. I'm also doing one in Miami. This will be my third time down there." He has already done two guest spots so far this year; "one with Robert Jarrett in Kingsport, Tenn. and one with Parry Chotipradit in Annapolis, Maryland."

Keep up with Jason Stephan's body of work, future travels and projects at:

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# The 3rd Annual Cigar City Tattoo Convention

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY J.J. DIABLO

**M**y first time visiting Ybor City, Fla. was to get tattooed by Mike Parsons, then at Doc Dog's Las Vegas Tattoo Company. Within the first hour of my session, Mike decided I needed a nickname. After another hour, he decided that it should be "Cadet Hill" because while I was a smart girl, I did and said some pretty space cadet kind of things. While departing for the Cigar City convention this year I realized truer words were never spoken.

In a cloudy haze due to lack of sleep, I checked my bags, went through security and waited for my flight. Then I missed it. How it is possible for someone to arrive at the airport on time, on the right concourse and still miss her flight is a tale better suited for after-hour comrades. Cadet Hill strikes again. However, as Parsons pointed out, deep



Left - Snookie shiner won Saturday's Best Portrait; Right - new school rhino half sleeve by Matt Lang.



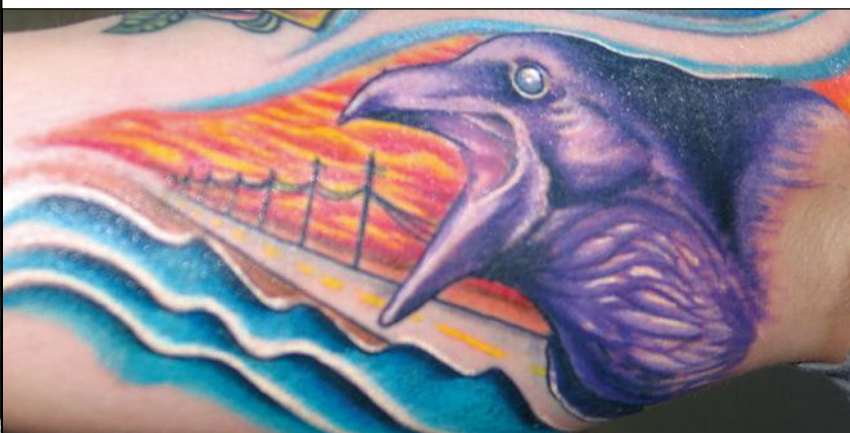
Above- Takashi Matsuba completing a traditional tebori tattoo;  
Below - showing some brotherly love between clients.



Tattoo artist, Carolyn Cadaver's, 38 new dermals by Michael Wells.



Above - J.J. Diablo's Urkel nerd stamp. Below - lost highway crow both courtesy of Matt Lang of Mike Parsons Ink.



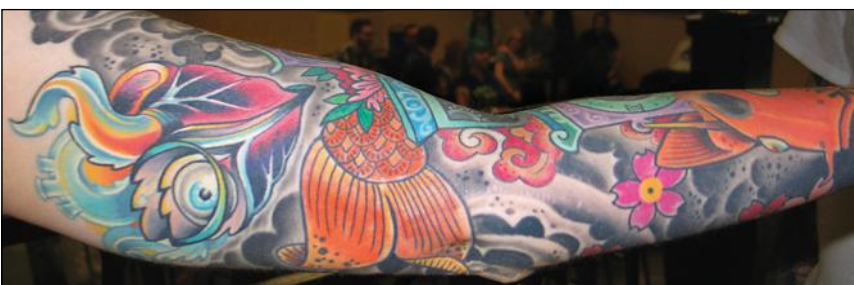




Above - Zombie girl by Chris D. of Redemption Ink; Hand spider by Grady Spades of Jack Brown's Tattoo Revival; Patriotic painting from Perseverance Tattoo; Below - 2011 Miss Cigar City winner, Miss Roxy.



Sleeve by "Famous Gabe" aka Gabe Smith of Hula Moon.







Rockabilly Tattoo's Steve Whittenberger hard at work.  
Below -Cherry Von Topp performing erotic burlesque.)



## CIGAR CITY CONTINUED

down I'm a smart girl and I caught the next available plane to the show before too much precious sunshine was lost.

As if the privilege of leaving fickle, chilly Georgia weather behind for the warmth of Florida were not enough, the first night I was greeted by the familiar faces of some of my favorite artists from around the Southeast. Scott Lukacs, Shay Cannon, Gabe Smith aka "Famous Gabe", Grady Spades, Steve Whittenberger, Lad Bak, the list goes on. Besides being phenomenal tattooers, those guys always bring a smile to my face with their good times and positive attitudes.



Armored skull by Famous Gabe Smith of Hula Moon.



Derek Raulerson, Mike Parsons Ink.



Saturday's best small Black & Grey by Kider of Riptide Tattoo.



Clay and Laurie Montgomery repping Atomic Tattoos.



Saturday's Best Black & Grey by JR of Guayama Ink.





Above - Saturday's best sleeve winner by Mark Stewart of Forever Tattoo Parlour; In progress Bindhi elephant.



Above - Piercers and models, Lisa & Lexi; Saturday's "Flying 'V'" Tattoo of the Day by Sean Kerwin of Atomic Tattoos; Our friend Rich of Diversified Tattoo Supply pimpin' merch..



Mike Hunter's biomechanical sleeve by Dee Peacock.

Hosted by Atomic Tattoos, the close-knit vibe of the 3rd Annual Cigar City Tattoo Convention proved to be a wealth of talent in tattooing and piercing as well as in atmosphere. In addition to the new work coming out of each booth, the expo featured an incredible performance by Le Teaze Burlesque Troupe. In particular, Miss Cherry Von Topp, executed moves in a bath tub, a bed, and a dancer's pole that would make any house wife, ballerina and stripper blush. Screen prints and artwork from Rebel8 and Fight Dirty Clothing to name just a few, lined the downstairs walls while event goers could shop for everything from T-shirts to corsets. Amidst all the tattooing, piercing and shopping Miss Roxy was crowned this year's Miss Cigar City after a two day pinup competition put on by Pin Up America. Contestants were judged on multiple categories including personality, talent, swimsuit and evening wear.

I find the best trips are those that leave marks. With that in mind, I even managed to leave with a new addition from Matt Lang of Mike Parsons Ink; nerd for life! Such a good time with incredible people. I can't wait for next year! ★



# HOT INK AMY D.

BY GREG TRUELOVE

This issue's assignments took me to Southern California giving me the perfect opportunity to hook up with a Hot Ink model that has been trying to shoot for PRICK for over a year now. San Diego native, Amy DeLacroux, has lots of great ink, has great curves and takes modeling pretty seriously. It was my pleasure to give her a call to let her know we wanted to feature her, and thanks to Jason Greely and Lowbrow Ink, we shot at their brand new tattoo shop. It ended up being a great backdrop for this issue's Hot Ink.

**G: Give me a very very brief rundown of where you were born, grew up, went to school, and ended up in San Diego.**

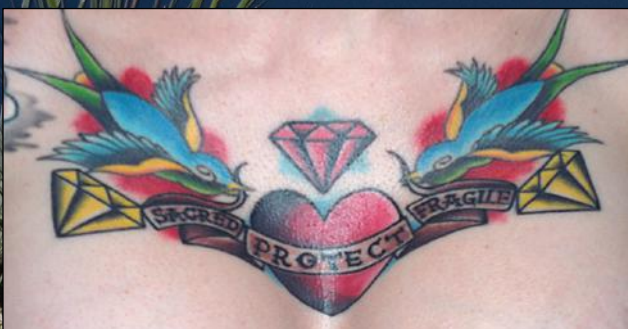
A: "I grew up in San Diego and have gone to school/worked/lived here my whole life."

**G: Tell me what your regular job is and what kind of modeling experience you have, published work, etc.**

A: "I'm a full time registered dental assistant during the week. I've been modeling for about two years now, and have been internationally published in various automotive, tattoo, alternative, and lifestyle magazines. My first cover was for Skin & Ink."

**G: Do you have a main tattoo artist or shop you use and want to give props to?**

A: "I love Jen Davis at Outer Limits Tattoo in Orange, Calif. She did the roses on my back and side. It's a pretty large piece and still a work in progress. Dewayne at Tower Tattoo in San Diego, Calif is great too. His line work and color is phenom-





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## AMY D CONTINUED

enal. Hopefully soon I'll be getting a traditional panther piece on my right forearm."

**G: You did your shoot at Lowbrow Ink. What did you think of shooting there and what was memorable about that experience?**

A: "It was cool shooting there because we had a lot of different options when it came to backgrounds. A lot of tattoo shops look the same all around on the inside, but Lowbrow has a lot of variety. Everyone there was super nice too, and helpful. They fed me twice that day, so I can't complain!"

**G: How did you decide you wanted tattoos and what was your first piece?**

A: "I started wanting to get tattoos when I was in college, but I didn't know where to go or what to get. I just knew I wanted something. My first piece was the blue sparrow on my left shoulder blade."

**G: Do you have any specific pieces you want to talk about?**

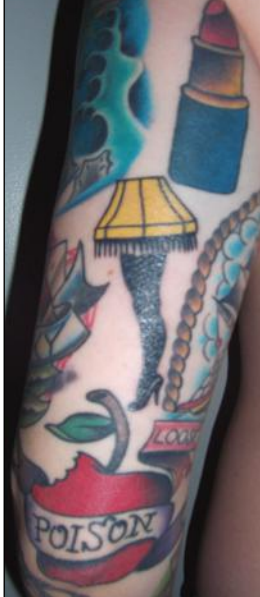
A: "I got the 'Imperial' on my left forearm because that's the street the cemetery is on where both my parents are buried. I got 'San Diego' as a tribute to the city where I grew up in. The black roses with thorns underneath the 'San Diego' reminds me that even though something is beautiful on the outside doesn't mean it's not secretly fucked up in some way and that every place and everyone has a darker side. I got that tattoo because I was hanging out with messed up, selfish people that were bringing me down and didn't care about me and my well being like I thought. I got my first tattoo, the blue sparrow, after my mom finished her first battle with colon cancer. We got the same tattoo, but where mine says 'love' and 'trust' her tattoo had mine and my sister's names."

**G: What do people at your "normal" job think about your tattoos? What about any family or friends?**

A: "I keep my tattoos covered at work. I don't want my patients thinking I'm a crazy tattoo gangbanger that's going to clean their teeth! I had one old lady come in and randomly say tattoos look 'snakey', so I'm glad I keep them covered or else I'd definitely get judged at work. I wear a long sleeve shirt underneath my scrubs. When my mom was still alive she didn't really care I got tattoos. I think she was surprised that I kept getting more and more work done and I think she was concerned I'd regret it later. She was a huge influence on why I started getting tattoos. My sister used to give me so much shit for them. She would say things like, 'What are your kids going to think when they see their mom all tattooed up?' Umm, it's not like I'm going to hide it from them and then bust them all out when they're 18! Haha, 'Surprise!' Then later my sister ended up getting one on her leg. I thought it was pretty funny that she gave in, haha. My friends are mixed about it. Some love my tattoos, some are like 'More!!?' Fuck yeah, more!!!"

**G: Do you have a fan page or a website you want include?**

A: I don't have a personal website yet but check out <http://www.modelmayhem.com/1220685> and <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Amy-DeLaCroux/133292293378607>. ★







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The shops are crammed full of memorabilia from their tattooed past: tattoo photos, first place trophies, and newspaper as well as magazine articles. There is more nostalgia than any one person could possibly absorb in just one visit. And if you need further proof, then you can check the shop out for yourself on their own webshow **TATTOOEDTV.COM**! The Truth and Triumph Tattoo crew definitely commands the attention of its seekers while giving a lasting impression of their commitment to excellence, innovation, and dedication. That's earned them their title of triumph, and that's the truth!

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## SHOP FEATURE-

# LOWBROW INK

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY GREG TRUELOVE

**W**hen I received a text from Dan "Punkass" Caldwell, the president of MMA's biggest clothing company, Tapout, saying he just opened a tattoo shop in the outskirts of Los Angeles, I thought to myself "this will be interesting". They were having a big grand opening party and I was invited, so I packed my bags and planned to be at Lowbrow Ink to meet up with Dan and his partner, tattoo artist Jason Greely and check out the shop. I remember hearing Greely's name before, as he is one of Dan's long time artists and Jay has also worked on Dan's partners Tim "Skrapes" Katz, and UFC Hall of Famer, the late Charles "Mask" Lewis. So off to Grand

Terrace I went to meet the Lowbrow crew, and maybe even get some new ink.

When you walk into Lowbrow Ink for the first time, the first thing you notice is the insane amount of artwork and graphics on the walls, ceilings and the entire floor. Apparently Jay Greely and his crew did all the demo, construction, painting and design of the shop to give it a specific custom feel. I later found out that while Punkass is one of the main investors behind Lowbrow, it's real creative visionary is Jason Greely and the artists he hand picked to work alongside with him. It seems that Punkass's investment is well spent because Jay Greely is one of the area's most well known personalities in

the tattoo game and everywhere he goes it seems someone is always coming up and saying hi, or he's shouting out at someone he's tattooed. With his other in house artists Rikk Rodriguez, Lex Duran, and Wes Hogan, the Lowbrow gang is seeing lots of customers since the day the doors opened for business.

I asked Greely about his vision behind Lowbrow and he had a lot to say:

"The general vision behind Lowbrow Ink is to break the stereotypes around the tattoo industry as a whole. We pose a different view and atmosphere for our wide array of patrons; clothing/retail, art galleries showcasing art by tattoo artists from around the world featured within



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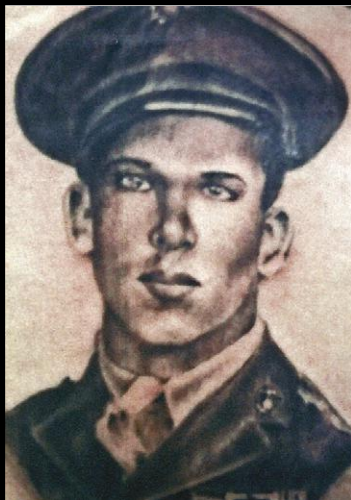
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## LOWBROW CONTINUED

our wildly designed shop, and the best tattoo artists Southern California has to offer. With a customer service driven atmosphere, great tattoos and everything that makes people want to come back for more, it's never boring at Lowbrow Ink!"

I was also curious as to how he managed to meet Punkass, who was very influential in making Lowbrow Ink a reality. Jay said, "Punkass and I grew up in the same city, Grand Terrace, CA. We met through family and friends. I've known Punkass for almost 15 years. I did his first tattoo. I did his last tattoo. I've known him since before Tapout started and watched him rise to success through all the hard work that he put in to make TapouT the brand everyone thinks of when they think of MMA. He kicks ass!!!"



With popular artists like Rikk Rodriguez slinging ink out of Lowbrow right next to Greely, success seems imminent. With an interesting character like Jason you wonder what got him into tattooing? What

made him get to this point in his career?

"By accident," he said. "I play drums in a metal band called Cold Ethyl. I have for 20 years.

All musicians need tattoos! So I went to get a tattoo, and I loved it. I loved everything about it. I loved the feeling of getting your first tattoo, how the tattoo felt, how the tattoo



made ME feel, and I'm an artist as well, so I found my true artistic passion in tattoos. I started by asking a bunch of different shops to teach me to tattoo, and one gentleman said, "So you wanna learn how to tattoo? There's the mop." So I did whatever it took to learn this craft. I swept and mopped the floors, plunged the toilets, made the needles, learned to build machines, had to draw everything in the shop THEN they let me tattoo. And if anyone comes to me and says, 'Teach me to tattoo,' I'll say, 'Here's the mop!'"

So whenever you're out in the Los Angeles/San Bernadino area of SoCal or the hi-desert, make your way down to Lowbrow Ink in Grand Terrace. They are right down the street from the old Tapout World Headquarters location, and open for business every night.

See more online at:  
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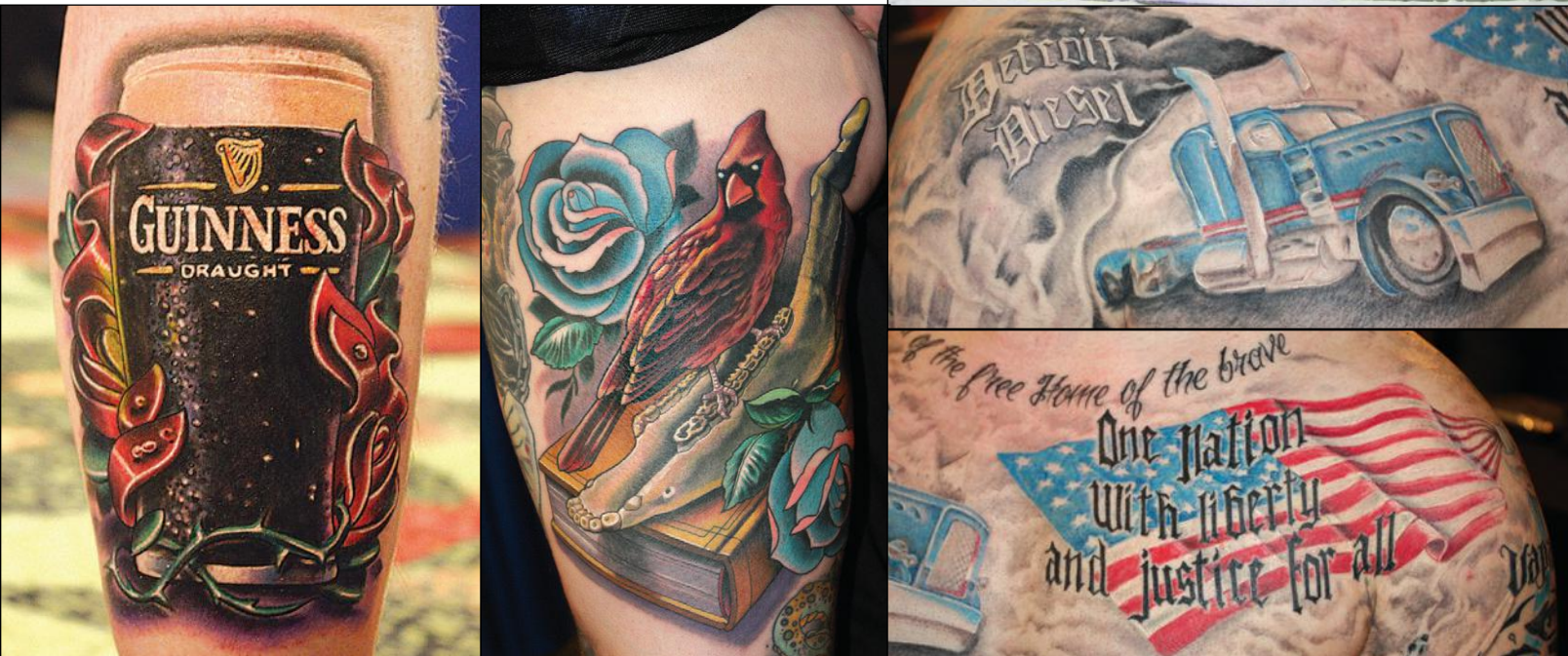
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# The 16th Annual Motor City Tattoo Convention

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY CHUCK B.

The Detroit show was fan-freakin' tastic! PRICK has had photographers there before but this was the first time I had attended the show personally. It won't be my last. Tramp of Eternal Ink and Brian Everett and all the people involved in making this show happen deserve a huge round of applause. For being in one of the most violent and economically challenged cities in America, The Motor City Tattoo Convention was one of the busiest, most well attended and star-studded shows I have been to in a while. The all star cast of great artists was topped by Corey Miller of LA Ink fame. Corey was working under the Six Feet Under Tattoo Parlor banner and worked steady all weekend. He was really down to earth just like everyone else. The photos on the next few pages clearly show the caliber of artists and collectors.



Above - Fresh Guinness pint done by Josh Woods. Cardinal piece on Sieto Maldonado by Russ Abbott. Detroit Diesel tattoo by Chris Garcia placed Top 3 for Patriotism. Below - Brian Ferreira's eyeball and black & grey work by Jack Rudy. Lantern by Ryan Thomas.





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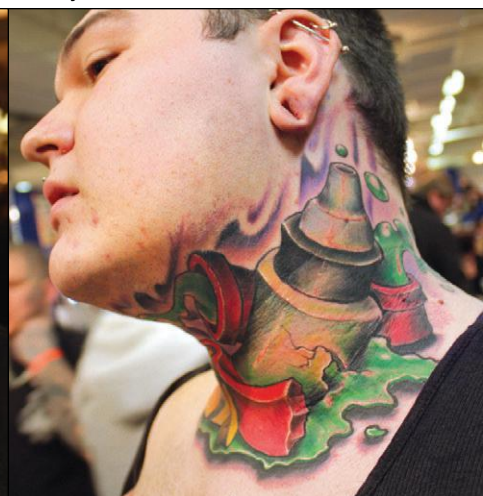
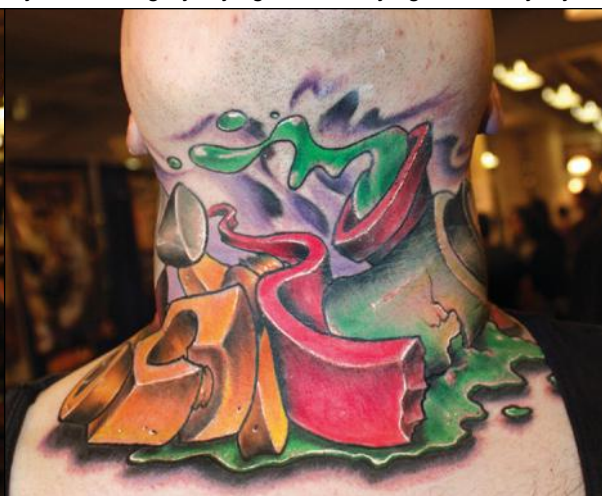
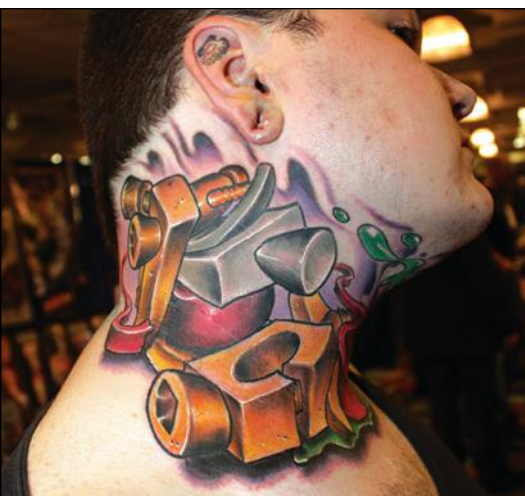




## MOTOR CITY 2011



Above - Jason Pratt's new Lemmy tattoo was done by Matt Stines (inset). Color portrait with chain on Cameron Innellaby Ryan Hadley  
Andrea Grandy's black & grey crying woman crying Andrea by Ryan Hadley.



Above - Dylan Brizendine's entire throat by Jeremy Miller. Below - Gill Montie and Brian Everett wishing Jack Rudy (center) a happy birthday. Matthew Henry's giant sidepiece by Jason Angst. Jason Baron's giant waterfall backpiece by Scott Marshall.







Above - Kevin of Tattoosnob.com and his new lantern tattoo by Steve Martin of Black 13 Tattoo. Brittney Rameriz gets a double-team collaboration piece at the show from Carl Grace and Johnny Quintana of Ink Shop Tattoo.



## MOTOR CITY 2011



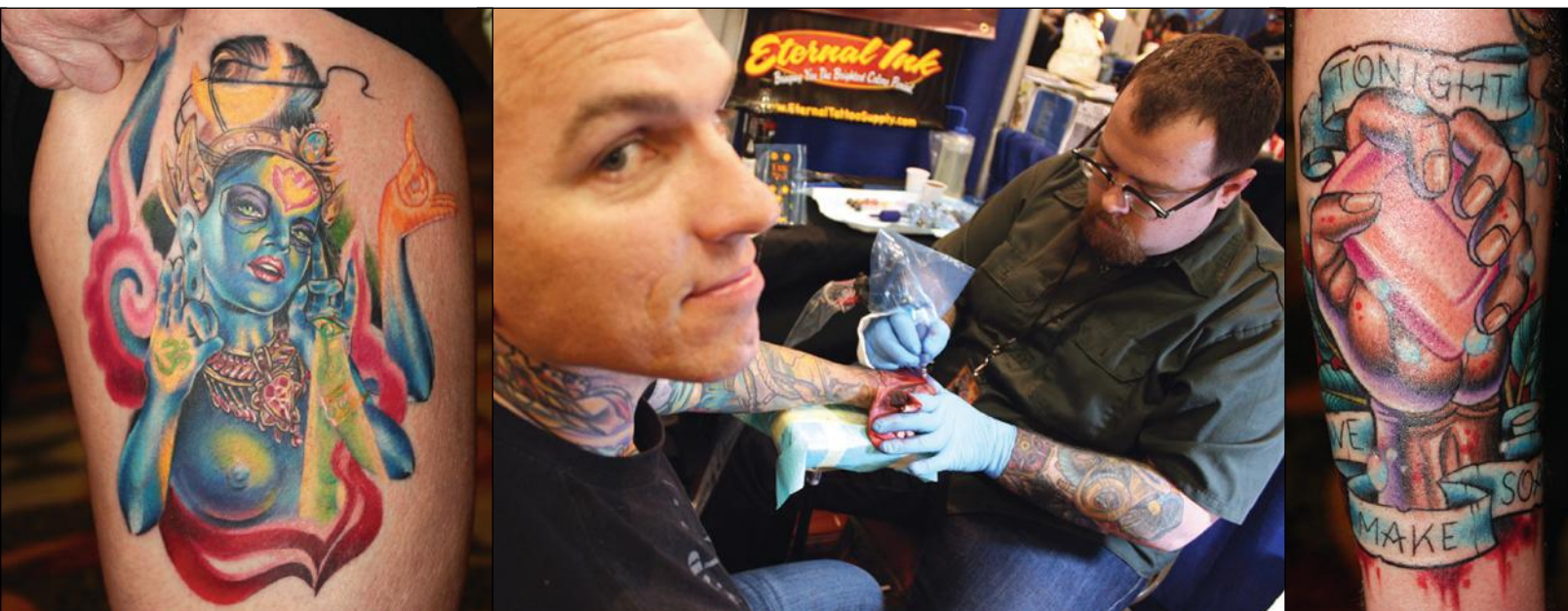
Above - David Bradley gets a fresh, freehand black & grey dragon from world famous Corey Miller of hit show *LA Ink*. Below - John Osborne shows his piercings and facial tattoos. Jimmy Hendrix by Steve Wimmer. Hermit crab by Scotty Munster. Yellow rose by Nate Beavers.







Above - Evan Beers shows his award winning tribal tattoos done by his brother, Max Beers. Max and Amy Beers were all smiles after Max's brother placed Top 3 in the tribal category



Above - Blue Shiva by Heather Maranda. Chris of Steadfast Brand Clothing getting tattooed by Russ Abbott. Fight Club soap tattoo by Mario Johnston.  
Below - Chris Raag got his entire shoulder done at Motor City by Dan Plumley. He also got his entire lower leg done (not shown) by Josh Duffy.





# MOTOR CITY 2011



Above - Dagger, book and rose tattoo by Timmy B. of Black 13, won Tattoo of Day Friday. Smokin' Aces, Alicia Keys portrait by Klown of Lowrider Tattoos won for Tattoo of Day Saturday. Dan Henk hard at work. Sexy snake charming provided by Lucky Daredevil Thrillshow.  
Below - Treefrog by Phil Garcia. Day of Dead girl by Sean Herman. Black & grey skull by Josh Duffy. Newschool piece by Jeremy Miller.



The iconic GM building/ Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center served as a great all in one facility. You never had to leave the building thus the crowd stayed strong from open to close. There were plenty of things to do outside the convention including a massive car show and various casinos but due to the snowy weather and crime statistics I stayed within the confines of the hotel. Since the hotel was home to General Motors, all of the latest and greatest Cadillacs and Chevys were on display. That was sort of a car show in itself. I did look across the adjacent river into Canada during my smoke breaks outdoors. It was a quite a nice view with the falling snow and ice drifts.

I can't say enough great things about the Motor City Tattoo convention. However, I would be amiss as a concerned American not to mention the economic devastation I witnessed during this, my first trip to Detroit. My friend Bill Danforth, a native of Detroit and icon of old school, pro skateboarding, gave me a tour of some of the harder hit areas along with a brief history lesson. Detroit is a perfect example of the demise of America from the demise of American pride and products. Some areas looked like war zones. I was horrified at the prospect of this happening across America. My final thoughts from Motor City ... BUY AMERICAN or die a slow death as a country.



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Tasha Collar's fruit bat was done by Nate Beavers. Black and grey Dia de los Muertos tattoo by Boog on Jesse Bell. Terry "Tramp" Welker and Tony Ciavarrro pushing their new Eternal Energy drink in a big way. (Not actual size of beverage)

## MOTOR CITY 2011



Above - Sean Herman of Royal Street Tattoo at work on a forearm. Chris and Mike Skivers hangin out. Pink Ganesha tattoo by Joe King  
Below - Shane Oneil tattooing Bob Tyrrell. Matt Moreno of Ink and Dagger gives Samantha Mclaughlin her first tattoo of 3 roses



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# SKELETONWITCH

BY J.J. DIABLO

I first met Skeletonwitch while they were on tour with Danzig for *The Blackest of the Black Tour* in 2008. It was my first Danzig show. Now mind you, I spent most of my middle school and high school days harboring a tempestuous crush on old Glenn. When the merch booth attendant handed backstage passes to my friend and I as we came back from a beer run, I thought I was about to meet my maker in the best way possible. Backstage I was a bundle of nerves, eagerly anticipating meeting the guru of all things Metal, rehearsing in my head finally getting to say the words I'd hoped to for so long.



I was so nervous, I jumped as the backstage door opened, and in walked the boys from Skeletonwitch. We'd seen their show earlier in the night, and given the weight of the awesome performance they'd put on I was surprised to find them so personable and laid back. I think meeting those guys first definitely helped calm my nerves and avoid a potential panic attack. It did not however, quell my schoolgirl crush enough to keep me from holding Glenn Danzig's hand awkwardly for 20 minutes later that evening. Oh well, thanks for the smiles nonetheless guys.

After just wrapping up their first 2011 tour, Skeletonwitch took time to fill us in on what they're all about and their focus on writing and recording new music to spread to metal fans across the globe from schoolgirls to surly dudes. They were even nice enough to field some fan questions too!





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## SKELETONWITCH CONTINUED

When asked to sum up Skeletonwitch's story, the guys simply explain, "We live in Athens, Oh. We love metal. We love beer. We became friends and started shredding in 2003. It's been black t-shirt/white van ever since."

Assuming my brief Danzig experience might be different than theirs, I asked about how touring with the Metal legend turned out. "It was amazing! We've all been Misfits/Samhain/Danzig fans for a long time, so having the opportunity share the stage with Glenn was an honor. Glenn was exceptionally cool to us and gave us some good advice, in addition to bringing a lot of attention to Skeletonwitch. We owe him big time, and not just for the beers he gave us!" The guys have also been influenced by bands like Overkill, Immortal, Death, Amon Amarth, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Motorhead, Deicide, the list goes on.

The guys claim "not dying on tour" to be one of their biggest accomplishments to date. They also note that "traveling around the world as best friends playing the music they love" is a very close second.

Skeletonwitch plans on playing some European festivals in August and a few dates in the Mid-West in April, and so far for this year, they say their "main focus is the new record."

Skeletonwitch fans proved to be no less, um, focused. But we asked, and they answered.

Here's what inquiring minds wanted to know:

### Who has the worst farts on tour?

"That's impossible to answer. Everyone is capable of cooking up a pretty good batch. It just depends on the day and the dinner."

### Who has the best tattoos?

"It's also a bit weird trying to decided which of the dudes in our metal band have the best tats. You guys open up the floor to your readers and the first two questions are 'worst farts' and 'best tats'. Honestly I'm more interested in 'best farts' (sonically speaking) and 'worst tats'."

### Name 3 random things that might shock the cashier at the grocery store.

"Farts, tattoos, and Marilyn Manson."

The guys wanted to mention to the fans, "If that's not enough, then come The Union Bar in Athens, Ohio. Just sit down and start drinking and one of us will show up before too long."

You can keep up with Skeletonwitch by visiting:

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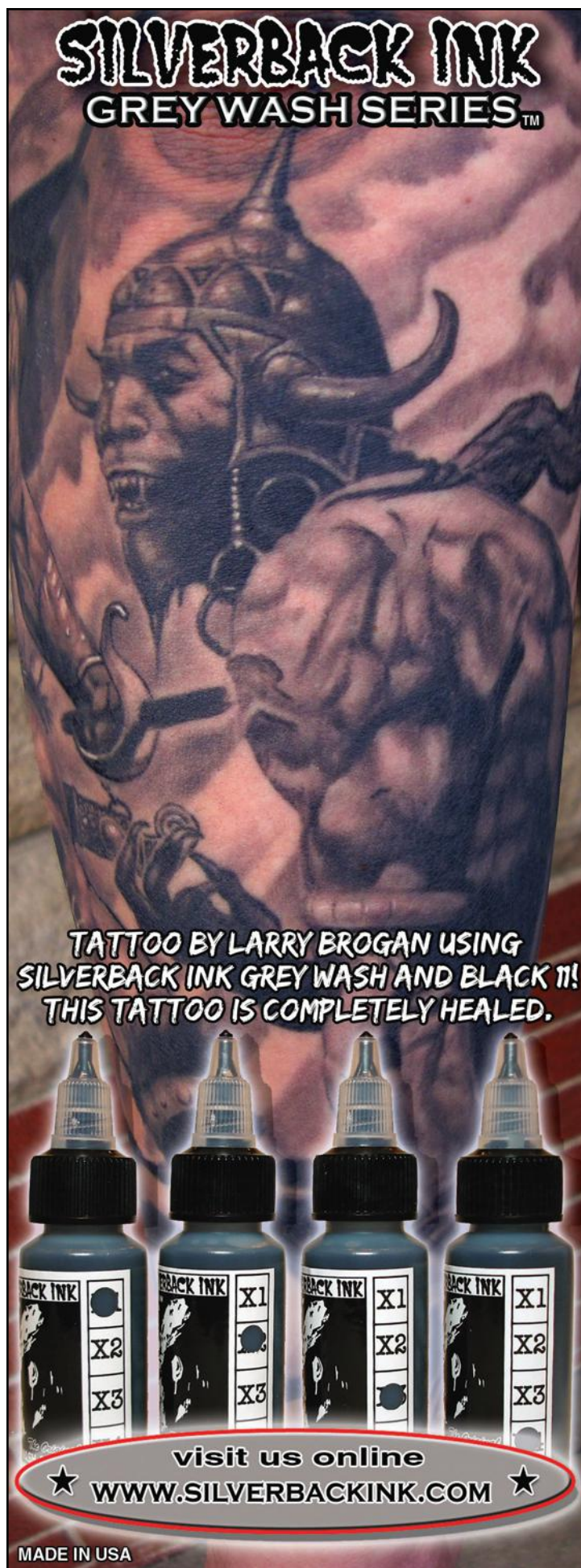
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# MUSIC NOTES BY KRIS MELTON



## ALMOST KINGS

### Club Rock

In the past few years Almost Kings has used their fusion of rock and hip hop to establish an ever growing and devoted fan base. Their no apologies attitude to blending genres and delivering catchy hooks with enthralling confidence makes their new EP "Club Rock" the ideal follow up to their "Filthy Nice" album, which sold over 10,000 units. The group took 6 weeks off of their

vigorous tour schedule to record the EP, with the result being an explosion of animated lyrics and grandiose musicianship. Each song features its own twist, pulling from a variety of influences. "285" incorporates a southern twang, "Shakin' Em Up" boasts a heavier sound, and "Cheers" flaunts a reggae backbone. Tracks like "Bang Loud" and "Ooh Ah" instantly seduce your ears with their rampant energy and audacious wit.

## DIRTY NAMES

### Rock and Roll Mind Control

Whoever said Rock 'N Roll is dead obviously hasn't sampled the Dirty Names. The mid-Atlantic region based group takes the foundation of rock we love, but adds their own spin. Their debut EP "Rock and Roll Mind Control" exudes gritty vocals with a rhythmically charged delivery. Their appeal ranges from rockabilly, country, to die hard jam band fans. "I Don't Care" will instantly win you over with its hearty guitars, forward lyrics, and evidently skilled craftsmanship. "Salt Water Jackie" is carelessly catchy with coy lyrics and a simple twang. The title track "Rock and Roll Mind Control", along with "Don't Try" and "Swimming" complete the notable collection of rustic and soulful harmonies. This EP will stick in your head for weeks, only after winning you over with its foot tapping good tunes.



## THE BASTARD SUNS

### A Band For All Seasons Vol. 3 - Spring

The punk, reggae, folk concoction known as The Bastard Suns are in the midst of a 4 disc compilation release and a continual cross-country promotional tour entitled "A Band For All Seasons". Each EP features influences that set the tone of the season, with their latest edition showcasing ska inspired tracks that will have you on your feet and skanking. Songs like "Rudy Went Crazy" and "Lobrow Hijinks" capture the band's infectious fun spirit. "Onward and Upward" and "I'm Failing" declare their passion and dedication to music, an underlying theme conveyed in all of their previous albums. All four EPs include a cover fitted for the season's sound. Spring's energetic twist on Rod Stewart's "Maggie May" is a clever addition infusing punk and ska into its traditional melody. With commanding vocals, brazen guitar solos, saavy bass, and rowdy drums that kick-start your night, this group insists you grab a pint and join the party.

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## **COVERED** The Movie

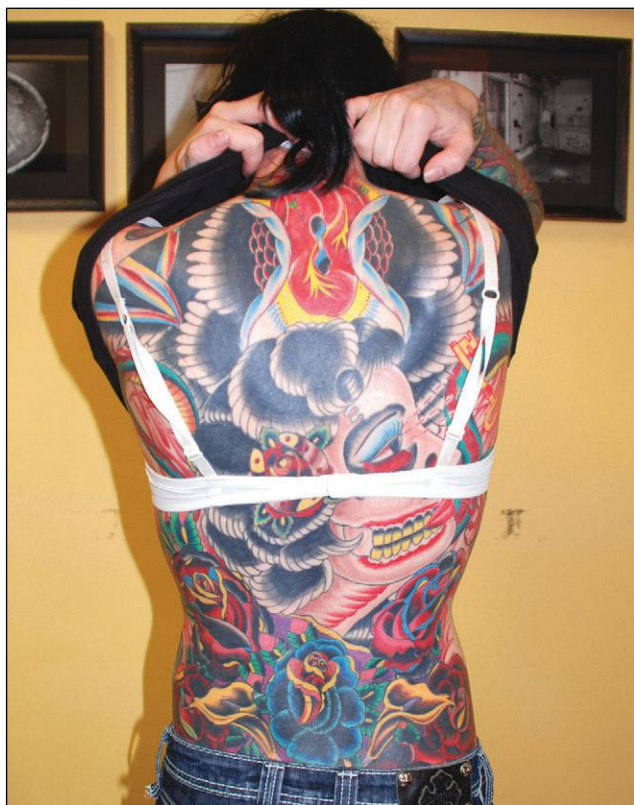
(Snakegirl Productions)

*Covered* is a personal glimpse into the evolution of women in the world's tattoo industry. Female tattoo lifers like Kari Barba, Vyvyn Lazonga, Sofia Estrella and Sailor Cher all share their accounts of paying their dues to earn their place in a tattoo chair and on being heavily tattooed women experiencing the stare of public eye and opinion. One of the fathers of modern tattooing, Lyle Tuttle, provides a balanced historic view of women's rise as tattooers for an even better view of the changing climate of the industry around these women.

The film's producer and director, Beverly Yuen Thompson, Ph.D., a professor at Siena College, explains "this documentary explores the experiences of about 50 heavily tattooed women as they navigate social discrimination to enjoy their love of art. The movie also explores the experiences of women working in the tattooing industry over the last three decades."

This well researched and executed documentary about women in the tattoo industry is worth your time. PRICK Mag even has a cameo! Order your copy of *Covered* now and get updates and screening dates near you at:

<http://coveredthemovie.com/> ★



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Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

### Baltimore Tattoo Arts Convention

April 8th - 10th - Baltimore, Md.

### Rock Culture Con

April 23th - Kansas City, Mo.

### Ink & Iron Show

April 10th - Birmingham, U.K.

### The Cape Fear Tattoo and Arts Expo

April 29th - May 1st  
Wilmington, N.C.

### 32nd National Tattoo

### Association Convention

April 12th - 17th - Sparks, Nev.

### 7th Annual Fresno Tattoo Expo

April 29th - May 1st  
Fresno, Calif.

### Ink Life Tattoo & Music

### Festival Tour

April 15th - 17th - Oklahoma City, Ok.

### Reno Rockabilly Riot

May 13th - 15th - Reno, Nev.

### Lehigh Valley Tattoo

### Convention-Skindustry Expo

April 15th - 17th - Allentown, Pa.

### Tattoos By The Bay

May 13th - 15th  
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### 4th Annual Lake

### Havasu City Tattoo Show

April 15th - 17th Havasu, Ariz.

### Ink Life Tour

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